



Guardian

Volume 13, Issue 10 Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Task Force (East) www.tffalcon.hqusaareur.army.mil November 2006

Photo of the Month



Nov. 11, nearing the end of the twelve month rotation, combined with a six month train-up before deploying to Kosovo, over 280 Soldiers from Multi-National Task Force (East) assembled to be given the oath of enlistment by Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, commanding general, MNTF(E), on Camp Bondsteel's Victory Parade Field.

Photo by Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

Guardian

is produced for personnel of KFOR Multi-National Task Force (East)

Commanding General, MNTF(E)... Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, 36th Infantry Division

Public Affairs Officer, MNTF(E)... Maj. Paul Pecena, 36th Infantry Division

4th PAD Commander... Capt. Sunset R. Belinsky, 4th Public Affairs Detachment

4th PAD NCOIC... Staff Sgt. Brandon Krahmer, 4th Public Affairs Detachment

Print NCOIC/Managing Editor... Sgt. (P) Matthew Chlosta, 4th Public Affairs Detachment

Editor... Spc. (P) J. TaShun Joycé, 4th Public Affairs Detachment

Assistant Editor/Webmaster... Spc. Daniel J. Nichols, 4th Public Affairs Detachment

Broadcast NCOIC... Sgt. Emmanuel Torres, 4th Public Affairs Detachment

Broadcast Journalist... Spc. (P) Brian McGovern, I Corps

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Sgt. Eric Adam, Task Force Falcon, 36th Infantry Division

Spc. Gene DuBielak, Task Force Houston, 36th Infantry Division

Spc. Michael O'Neal, Task Force Alamo, 36th Infantry Division

Printing... DINOGRAPH Ferizaj/Urosevac, Kosovo

The Guardian is an official publication of KFOR 7 Multi-National Task Force (East) published in accordance with AR 360-1 to provide command information to service members in MNTF(E). The Guardian is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment. Contents of the Guardian are not necessarily official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, the 36th Infantry Division or MNTF(E). The Guardian is published monthly using offset press by the MNTF(E) Public Affairs Office, BLDG #1320, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340. Printed circulation is 2,200.

What's Inside

Guardian Volume 13, Issue 10 November 2006



NETWORK SECURITY . . . pg. 16

Hello KFOR8, Goodbye
KFOR7 . . . pg. 31

Staff Ride. . . pg. 27

Retention: Stay A While....pg. 19

**MEET THE
UNDERTAKER...PG. 20**

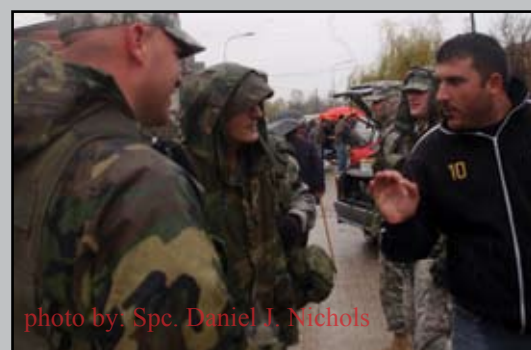


photo by: Spec. Daniel J. Nichols

No one's saying
YOU'RE CRAZY . . . pg. 28

TF Dragoon Who? . . . pg. 22

Veterans Day Awards
Ceremony. . . pg 24



Photo by: Spec. Gene Dubielak

Photo by Spec. J. TaShun Joycé



CALFEX: Bradleys Rest In Peace...pg. 30

LMT6: The Talk Of The Town...
pg. 12

On the Covers

FRONT COVER PHOTO BY SGT. WILLAM BLANTON SMITH, TF FALCON - Sgt. Julie S. Toth, flight medic, TF Talon stays by a UH-60 Blackhawk while on standby for any emergency medical evacuation requests, Nov. 14.

BACK COVER PHOTO BY SGT. MATTHEW CHLOSTA - From left to right, Cpl. Mantas Gudelis, Lithuania, Spec. Jason McIntosh, 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company A, Task Force Alamo, 36th Infantry Division, Pvt. Witold Wojciechowski, Polish Army, Pizcmizl, Poland and Master Sgt. Dmytro Kopach, Ukrainian Army, Novograd-Volinsk, Ukraine, all Soldiers in Multi-National Task Force (East) stand at the ready Nov. 8 on Camp Bondsteel.



CG's

Photo by Spc. TaShun Joycé
Layout & Design by Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, commanding general, Multinational Task Force (East) presents Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, commander, COM KFOR, with the United States Army Legion Of Merit award during the Veteran's Day awards ceremony on the Camp Bondsteel Victory Parade Field, Nov 11.

column

We are finally here on the last few miles of our long journey together.

My joy at the thought of returning to our beloved native land is tempered with sadness at parting ways with so many good companions. I am proud of you, not only for what you have done but also for who you are.

You come from all walks of life. Some are native and some are foreign born. You represent many different races, ethnicities and religious groups. Yet you share a common bond – a sworn oath of allegiance to the Constitution. You have gone where the Nation has sent you and have done what the Nation has asked. You have stood up for the rights and liberties of others. From all across America, from small towns and cities, and from various backgrounds, you volunteered for service and answered your Nation's Call to Duty. You are outstanding American men and women who have always done, and will continue to do, uncommon and extra ordinary things.

Remember, it is not only the service member who answers the Call to Duty. Our family's service is marked by the unwavering support they provide to us while we are in harm's way. The Call to Duty is answered by the American people who support us by honoring your service and soon will be welcoming you home. Each of you has displayed the Warrior Ethos. You placed the mission first and never accepted defeat and never quit. While history records our service here in terms of units and armies and forces, the role of the American Soldier is the story of each individual who accepted the Call of Duty. I thank each one of you and all the members of your family for answering this call and fulfilling your obligation in a noble and worthy manner.

To our successors, the men and women of the 29th Infantry Division, I say welcome. Thirteen rotations of American Soldiers have worked hard to earn the respect that flag on your right shoulder carries with the Kosovar people. I am confident that your actions here will continue to build that reputation every day. The high quality of your soldiers, guided by good leadership, common sense, and the Soldier's Creed, will see you through successfully to the end.

God bless all who came to Kosovo to serve, and all our Soldiers and families across the world. And, God bless the United States of America – where, because of your service and the service of Veterans of yesterday – our flag still flies over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Lone Star!

CSM'S CORNER



Photo, Layout & Design by:
Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Boyer, command sergeant major, MNTF (E) stands before the rest of MNTF (E) to recognize Soldier & NCO of the Quarter and Soldier & NCO of the Year winners for 2006, Nov. 11. Pictured are two award winners Soldier of the (4th) Quarter and Soldier of the Year Spc. Waylon Montague, Company B, TF Houston, San Antonio, Texas and NCO of the (1st) Quarter Staff Sgt. Gabriel Abalos, G-3 battle desk noncommissioned officer in charge, TF Falcon, Waco, Texas.

This edition of the Guardian marks a point for KFOR 7 that we have been anticipating for a long time. Transition of Authority. “Transition” means to move or to change and it is applicable to both rotations on many different levels. KFOR 7 has completed their mission here in Kosovo. Soon, the only thing left to mark our presence here will be the granite marker on the parade field. However, we will all take a piece of Kosovo with us in our memories. The experiences we had, the friendships we made, the hardships we endured will remain with us. We can certainly conclude this mission with a sense of satisfaction of a job well done. We have accomplished our mission here and now we “transition” on to future challenges.

For the Soldiers of KFOR 8, transition marks the beginning of the mission. The preparation, training, certification and validation are complete and you are ready to execute. You are beginning your mission in probably the most tumultuous period of KFOR history. Your challenges will be great but I have unquestionable confidence that you will, as a Task Force, rise to the occasion and deal with them in the professional, competent manner that is expected of U.S. Soldiers.

The 29th Division has a storied and stellar past in the annals of U.S. Army history. This deployment will enable you to only add to that distinguished legacy. Individually, you will face many challenges but you will deal with them and soon, almost shockingly soon, your rotation will be coming to an end. I wish you good luck for a safe and successful mission and Godspeed for your return to home and family at the completion of your mission.

Soldier On!

CSM Boyer

Q & A

Photo & Interview by: Spc. Daniel
J. Nichols

Layout & Design by:
Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

PTE. PERNILLA SIGFRIDSSON,
METEOROLOGY FORCASTER,
SWEDISH HELICOPTER UNIT,
TOOK SOME TIME OUT OF HER
WORK DAY, NOV. 9, TO TALK
ABOUT HER FIRST IMPRESSIONS
OF CAMP BONDSTEEL, AND HER
JOB IN THE SWEDISH HELI UNIT.

What is your job like?

My job is to give the pilots the weather reports for the day.

How long have you been in KFOR at Camp Bondsteel?

For three weeks. I got here when my unit came to Bondsteel

What has life in Bondsteel been like so far?

It's really good, you have everything you need. I especially like the gym and the aerobics class at south town.

Have you been deployed anywhere else before KFOR?

I went to the Congo in 2003 for six months.

Are the living conditions better here than in Africa?

Yes, but I think the climate is better in Africa. It's much warmer.

What is a normal day like for you?

We haven't really gotten into a routine yet, but we get up at seven o'clock to get the weather report and then we'll be here all day while the pilots are flying in case there are any changes in the weather. Sometimes when they have night missions we'll be at work until nine or ten at night.

How do you spend your free time?

I go to the gym, and also to the aerobics class.

What are the best and worst parts of being deployed in Kosovo?



The worst part is maybe the smell. The best part is that you have everything you need here, you have things like the chow hall, and the PX and the theater. It's very nice. There's always activities here which is good.

How much longer will you be deployed here?

Until March.

What is it like working with Soldiers from different Nations?

I think it's good, but I haven't really been able to talk to them that much. We work with the American Air Force for weather purposes, we have a lot of contact with them.

Do you have any goals while you are deployed?

I'm here to learn more about my job, and the weather in the Balkans. I think that weather is very interesting and I want to learn more about it.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I've just been here for three weeks, I think everything is great, you should ask me again in February.

The End - "In summary"

I bet you never thought we would finally bring this mission to a close. Before you know it, you will be on a plane and flying back onto U.S. soil. All of you have worked extremely hard in your work-place and also toward your fitness goals. The success stories are remarkable. I've seen you drop massive amounts of weight and you've taken your state of fitness to a completely new level. I'm excited for each and every one of you.

Let's summarize what we've talked about this year.

Stage 1 – Education: Setting goals and knowing how to meet those goals was how this all started. You learned that stability was the ability to overcome resistance. You gain stability through daily calisthenics. Endurance is the ability to sustain activity. What good is stability if you fall out after 15 seconds of push-ups or one lap around the track? Endurance is what your commander wants to see on the battlefield. It's also what you need to perform your daily duties. Mobility is movement proficiency and if you recall, puts stability and endurance into play. If you're not "mobile/flexible" you will not succeed in the mission, regardless of your level of stability or endurance.

Stage 2 – Phases of Fitness: The vast majority of you should be well beyond the starting "Preparatory Phase." This phase was the beginning phase to fitness. It allowed your body to adjust to being active. The "Conditioning Phase" came second and is the toughest. You get bored easily during this phase but you drive on and push yourself! Last is the "Maintenance Phase" is where all of you should be today. After almost 18 months of being deployed and having all kinds of tools to keep you active, you should SUSTAIN TO MAINTAIN.

Stage 3 – Nutritional Awareness: How important is nutrition going to play here in a few weeks? Tell me you won't chow down on a few hundred breakfast burritos or your favorite pasta at Olive Garden once you get home? I recall coming home from my first deployment and enjoying all the foods I didn't get while I was away. Stay focused on the healthy foods, limit unnecessary calories you intake through "drinks" and "side dishes."

Stage 4 – Train the Trainer: I'm going to sum this stage up by saying that "Fitness Leaders" ROCK! Without the motivation of other fit soldiers around us, I myself may not have stayed active. It's human nature to be semi-competitive. I see Soldiers helping soldiers all day long. A personal thanks to all the advice and motivation I received from soldiers during this deployment. I want to thank Sgt. First Class Christopher Murray and Staff Sgt. Mila Carmona pushed me

Fit 2 Fight Columnist Staff Sgt. Michael Bennett, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Army Physical Fitness Test, Task Force Falcon.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Krahmer

when I needed it, to stay fit throughout this deployment. They, along with many others, walk with pride wearing the Army's PT (physical fitness) patch, which is awarded for fitness excellence.

Stage 5 – Max your APFT: I have given more than 40 Army Physical Fitness Tests since I began this mobilization. Tests were given for multiple reasons. I witnessed many of you taking the advice I gave to help max your APFT. Grading the APFTs, I see the difference it has made. Keep it up!

Ab Attack: This is my favorite muscle group to work. I could have written a book around all the things you can do to improve your abdominals. You learned about the different muscle groups in your trunk area and how to work each of those groups. The most important part, however, without burning fat, you can work your abs all day but you won't see them. Your abdominals are hidden and they hidden by a layer of fat. Common sense tells you – burn the fat, see your abs!

Gun Control: This group of muscles are the ones I enjoy working the most. You see instant results when working your arms. Unfortunately, the massive bulge protruding from your sleeves after you leave the gym is temporary. Unless of course, you are consistent with your bicep and tricep workouts.

Last month's article explained the importance of changing up your routine. A routine is a routine for a reason, right? Well, in fitness "going" to the gym is a routine that you can keep. Doing the exact same thing every single day is something that you can change. In fact, it's strongly recommended. Shock your body to see maximum results.

There you go! Fit 2 Fight in summary. It's been a long deployment for most of us and the light at the end of the tunnel is visible. I encourage each and every one of you to continue on with your goals and strive to an even higher fitness level. Don't become a couch potato! Keep up with all the outstanding work you all have done.

Remember, always stay FIT 2 FIGHT!



STATE OF THE STATUS

Hurry up and wait!

Column, Layout And Design by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

UN Special Envoy postpones Kosovo status proposal

After months of anticipation regarding a decision pertaining to the final status of Kosovo the United Nations Secretary Special Envoy in Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari, announced on Nov. 10, the release of the Kosovo status proposal to the UN Security Council would be postponed until January, 2007. The announcement came during Ahtisaari's meeting with the Contact Group in Vienna, Austria.

The Contact Group includes six countries, made up of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Russia, and the United States. The Contact Group had previously committed to obtaining a negotiated settlement before the end of 2006.

"The international community is aware for the consequences of postponing the timeframes of the Kosovo status proposal, therefore the date the status proposal will be made known to both, Serbia and Kosovo, within a few days after the elections in Serbia," Hua Jiang, Ahtisaari's spokesperson, said.

Serbia, who does not want to part with the Kosovo province recently voted on and approved a new constitution on Oct. 29 which included a referendum in its preamble that reaffirms their belief that Kosovo is and should remain part of Serbia.

Supported by only 51 percent of voters, the Serbian government, who has drawn heavy criticism in recent months after Montenegro garnered enough votes to become an independent state, took a unified approach in supporting the new referendum.

Kosovo Albanians, who make up 90 percent of the province's roughly 2.2 million people have paid little attention to the referendum, a stance they have taken with all Serbian decisions long before UN Security Resolution 1244 was adopted in 1999.

According to a World Politics Watch article published on Nov. 7, Kosovo Albanians were not included on Serbian voter registration list, a move that assisted in the referendum's approval. The newly approved constitution is Serbia's first non-communist constitution in over 60 years. Within the last 200 years Serbia has adopted 13 constitutions.

The new constitution and upcoming Serbian elections are not expected to have a meaningful impact on the UN Special Envoy's decision.



Guest columnist Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

Safety Office's Monthly Message

Keep our Soldiers safe. Our monthly safety slogan is:
"An accident could be a one way ticket to disability"

Weather related accidents. Our drivers have been involved in Army Motor Vehicle (AMV) accidents due to local nationals not following/ obeying traffic laws. Ice, snow and local drivers, are a challenge for our drivers. In order to mitigate these risks, we need to take into account the following items; placement of tire chains to steer the vehicles. Watching the speed, both ours and the locals, and the width of the roads. Slow down, pull over to the side and wait for the other vehicle to pass, continually assess the ever-changing road conditions, and be alert about these risks.

Slips, trips and falls. We've had the first snow fall of the winter. Soldiers are confident and as a result we are walking at a fast pace. Last winter we had several Soldiers hurt due to slipping and falling in the snow. Usually the ice under the snow caused the accidents. Stress to our Soldiers the need to slow down, and prevent slipping by walking slower and finding firmer footing.

We are close to completing our mission, but we must become more vigilant than before in order to avoid complacency and take all our Soldiers back home safe!

Don't allow our Soldiers to become a disability statistic. Thank you for a safe and very good rotation. Remember, Stress safety in everything we do, both here and at home.

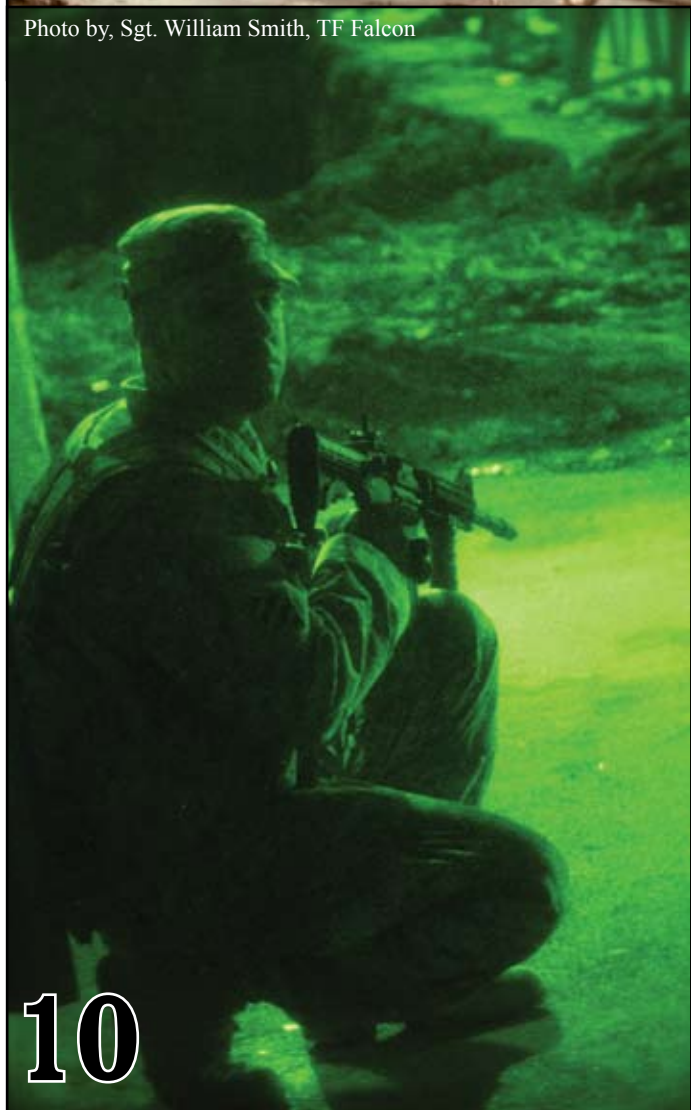
Lt. Col. Mario M. Alayon
Chief Safety Officer
TF Falcon



Photo by Spe. Daniel J. Nichols

THESE PHOTOS STAND ALONE

Photo by, Sgt. William Smith, TF Falcon



10

ABOVE: Three local Kosovars walk the streets of Gjilan/Gnjilane while a convoy of TF Houston Soldiers roll back towards FOB Monteith during a practice exercise, Nov. 9.

LEFT: Sgt. Charles Boxely, squad leader Co. D, TF Houston, pulls security during a night patrol in Gjilan/Gnjilane, Oct. 20.

BELOW: Local Kosovar kids get ready to watch a movie on Oct. 20 in a renovated theater in downtown Viti/Vitina. The film showings are held in the theater every week by TF Alamo's Liaison Monitoring Team 4.



Photo by, Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



Layout & Design by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols



Photo by: Sgt. Pedro Martiz, CMT, TF Alamo,

ABOVE: Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, (left) shakes hands with Cpt. Michael Singleton, commander, Co. A, TF Alamo, (right) during Pace's visit to the Soldiers of MNTF(E), Nov 14.

LEFT: A Shterpee/Strpce youth takes a shot over a Kllokot/Klokot defender during a semi-final basketball game played during Youth Sports Day at the Bill Clinton Sports Center in Ferizaj/Urosevac Nov. 11. The sporting event invited youth from across Kosovo to come together and compete in sporting events and was organized by Task Force Falcon, Psychological Operations. Eleven basketball teams, with team members ranging in age from 12-14, showed up for the tournament.

BELOW: Spc. Angel Padilla, Co. A, TF Houston, stands outside of Forward Operating Base Monteith waiting to clear his weapon after conducting Riot Control Drills, Nov 9.



Photo by, Staff Sgt. Brandon Krahmer



Photo by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols

The Talk of the Town

Liaison & Monitoring Team 6 uses their wealth of experience to plunge into the Kosovo social scene to uncover what's really going on

Many people with more traditional jobs may find it hard to view riding around meeting people and discussing current events over coffee as actual work. The term work does imply some form of labor or structure that has few similarities to the duties carried out by the Polish/Ukrainian Battalion's Liaison & Monitoring Team 6.



1st Lt. Carlos Cantu, LMT 6, TF Houston, Harlingen, Texas

"People call us the lazy macchiato team because they don't understand the way we do business," 1st Lt. Carlos Cantu, LMT 6, TF Houston, Harlingen, Texas, said. "The rumor is that we don't do anything. I feel that people should know that although our mission is different from theirs, it is still important."

"As LMTs we learn what the people think, hear, and what really concerns them," Sgt. Douglas Johnson, LMT 6, TF Houston, Conroe, Texas, said. "We visit with the people on a daily basis."

"We keep in regular contact with the people of our area," Cantu said. "With an area this big it is important that we're always out."

With an area of operations comprised of 32 villages which are home to roughly 10,000 residents there is always ground to cover.

Members of LMT 6 conduct at least two missions per day called pulse patrols. One patrol is during the morning hours and the other in the afternoon. A large degree of planning goes on before departing Camp Bondsteel to interact with the local populace. "We call our missions pulse patrols because the concept of an LMT is to feel out the pulse of the citizens," Johnson said.

Before former Kosovo Force commander Lt. Gen. Giuseppe Valotto, Italian Army, departed, he referred to LMTs as his barometer to gauge the region's progress or tensions, Cantu said. Each day LMT 6 submits a daily report to the regional LMT by 6:00 p.m. that goes into a larger report for COMKFOR.

Adequate preparation is a necessity, even for simple events like the team's Nov. 2 mission in Kacanik/Kacanik to show support for the

local kindergarten's 20th anniversary and visiting another elementary school in Glllobocice/Globocica later in the day.

We plan our day based off of our mission requirements and COMKFOR tasking, Johnson said. At the start of the day we review fragmentary orders for any changes to our mission. We also read the Daily Falcon newsletter to see what the local media is saying.

"We have set up a database with municipality leaders and other contacts and the issues they've had in the past to use as topics in our conversations," Johnson said. "We have to be subject matter experts on our municipality. We have to know everything."

With only a limited understanding of Albanian, the main language where they operate, LMT 6 relies heavily



...n, Texas, and Sgt. Douglas Johnson, LMT 6, TF Houston, Conroe, Texas, review their notes and discuss the findings of their Nov. 2, pulse patrol.

on the use of interpreters.

“When I first got here I bought books from local books stores and had them translated so I would know what’s going on,” Johnson said. “I have been able to connect better with people because they see we have taken the time to learn about their culture and the problems they face.

Earlier in the rotation I was told that I didn’t understand the situation because I was new here,” Johnson said. I informed the gentleman that I was aware of the situation because I had read the book that he wrote. He was surprised.

By immersing ourselves in the culture we didn’t have some of the same cultural disconnects that others may have encountered,” Johnson said.

On Nov. 2, the immersion became evident after parking at the Kacanik/Kacanik Kosovo Police Service building

and crossing the street. The team immediately began a conversation with a familiar face by commenting on his new motorcycle.

The man, a local barber, has had many conversations with the team while cutting their hair each week. With business being slow he accompanied them to a local coffee shop to discuss the ‘latest.’

While in the coffee shop vanilla topics such as the weather and the possibility of snow in the coming days led to more serious matters like the Kosovo’s power situation and having enough wood for the winter.

The man brings up that, although he is prepared for the winter many families in the area will struggle due to high fines from forest rangers for cutting wood without a license. He continues saying that one of his own employees was fined by

a forest ranger and is currently pending a court date to find out how much he will have to pay. He believes the fine will be expensive. The barber then asked if there was a way that KFOR could help.

Johnson told him that he would talk to a local business man to see if he could assist some these families.

“We try to connect the people in the community with other people within their community who can help them,” Johnson said. “We want to take the people’s reliance on the global community and have them rely on each other to solve their problems.”

By keeping detailed notes of every encounter with local citizens and the topics that they discussed, a ten minute conversation gave them enough information to complete a report on two issues that they were tasked to find out about.

continued next page



ABOVE: Students from the Kacanik/Kacanik perform for local parents and other town residents at the cultural building on Nov. 2, commemorating the 20 year anniversary of the kindergarten.



RIGHT: A student of the Kacanik/Kacanik kindergarten gets in character as Old McDonald as his classmates sang the popular children's song in Albanian.

After arriving at the kindergarten minutes before the event was supposed to start a faculty member informed the team that the event was being held at the Kacanik/Kacanik cultural center down the street.

While walking, Johnson pointed out some of the recent accomplishments made in the area.

"This community has been very proactive with helping the municipality with getting the job done," Johnson said.

Upon entering the building they were greeted by the school's all female teacher staff. Of the twelve teachers who work at the school four of them work without being paid due to lack of funding, Cantu said.

In the auditorium they exchanged pleasantries with the Kacanik/Kacanik municipality's Chief Executive Officer, Vice President, and the director of education before finding a seat

near the front of the auditorium.

"This is probably the most people I've ever seen in this place," Cantu said.

After some delay caused in part by a brief power outage the ceremony commenced. Following the initial ceremony the director of education presented awards to the school's principal, LMT6 and the Kosovo Protection Corps.

The ceremony ran longer than expected and forced the team to deviate from their original plan of heading back to Camp Bondsteel before their second pulse patrol. They easily adjust fire by splitting up.

Cantu and Spc. Joseph Singletary, LMT 6, TF Houston, Fred, Texas returned to Camp Bondsteel to handle administrative duties while Johnson and 1st Lt. Piotr Cichon, POL/UKR battalion, Rzeszon, Poland, headed to a local restaurant for lunch

before heading to Gllobocice/Globocica, a small village near the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's administrative boundary line crossing.

On the way back to the KPS station to retrieve their vehicle, Cichon encountered an elderly man who greeted him in Polish. Cichon chatted with the man briefly and used the opportunity to establish a new contact. The man gave Cichon his address and phone number and agreed to meet him for conversations in the future.

"I was surprised to meet someone in the community that speaks Polish," Cichon said. "He understands it very well. I think his Polish is better than my English. I look forward to speaking with him in the future."

"The multinational experience has given me a broad perspective of the way

"People call us the lazy macchiato team because they don't understand the way we do business," 1st Lt. Carlos Cantu, LMT 6, TF Houston, Harlingen, Texas, said.

things are seen from different points of view," Cantu said. "With Poland being a former Warsaw Pact country I have gained knowledge through their experiences to help me understand the situation here in Kosovo. It's been a great experience for me because when I came in the Army these guys were our enemies."

"It's really cool knowing that when I came in the Army we memorized their different uniforms and now were working together for a common cause," Johnson said.

Cichon was selected for his LMT position largely in part

to his experience working with American Soldiers in Iraq and his previously deployment to Kosovo.

"Americans train a specific way and have a particular way of conducting missions," Johnson said. "Having this opportunity we've incorporated what we do with what they do. It has been a real interesting process finding our common ground. We've been lucky that our counterparts have been so willing to work as a team."

"I've had two good teachers (Cantu and Johnson)," Cichon said. "They have a lot of experience and I have learned a lot from being an LMT."

In Gllobocice/Globocica, Cichon and Johnson gather information in similar manner although their results of getting the people together differ greatly from Kacanik/Kacanik.

While navigating the winding mountain road to the village they

went over key talking points and notes from previous encounters there.

They established two new contacts within the Gllobocice/Globocica elementary school, two mature men from one of the town's three main families and found that there is still a lack of communication between the families and little progress had been made since their last visit.

The younger of the two began to speak after sipping his hot tea and pulling out a cigarette and offering one to the group. Cichon declined but Johnson accepted his gesture although he doesn't smoke.

"Since I've come here I've learned that whenever I have a cigarette and discuss politics I learn whatever I want to know," Johnson said.

In a serious dialogue held within the privacy of the teachers lounge, the duo offered their opinions on the issues

continued on pg 26



Nexhmedin "Dini" Demolli, Northrop Grumman Service Support interpreter, records the names of Irfan Luma and Musli Luma at the Gllobocice/Globocica elementary school teacher's lounge for 1st Lt. Piotr Cichon, LMT 6, POL/UKR battalion, and Sgt. Douglas Johnson, LMT 6, TF Houston.

Network Security



KEEPING Your COMPUTER GEAR SECURE



"By misusing the Internet we are inherently opening ourselves up to these intrusions on the network. By downloading software you can accidentally open a hole in the network where somebody who is not authorized to gain access to data, can come in and gain information about our operations."

In today's age of technology, computers continue to become more and more integrated into every aspect of our lives. Whether it is using a computer at work, purchasing gifts online, managing our bank account, keeping in touch with family members, or playing the latest video game, computers have become an integral part of our lives.

Because computers have become so familiar, and are becoming easier and easier to use, it is common for many people to use them irresponsibly. Unlike things we learn at an early age like washing your hands before meals, or locking your front door when you go shopping, computer care and security is something that many people have completely overlooked, or never took the time to learn. Although keeping a computer secure may not affect life and limb, it does protect information.

The US military has taken steps to keep their government computer systems as secure as possible because of the information that is stored on them. Yet it is still each

seem like something innocent, downloads, and accessing the wrong websites can lead to serious security problems.

"A lot of today's violations we have here on post are people downloading freeware and shareware programs such as Skype, and iTunes," said Kelsey. Skype is a new, popular chat client for text, voice, and video communication. iTunes is a media program used for playing MP3s (MPEG-1 {Moving Pictures Experts Group} Audio Layer 3,) made popular through iPods.

"Skype is a big one lately," said Blake Crussell, Information Assurance Security Officer, Network Security Center.

"If you have unauthorized software out there, it cannot be updated, it could be a security risk, it could create vulnerability to your machine or to the network," Blake said. With Skype it could be all of those along with opening ports in the network that can lead a hacker directly to your system," he said.

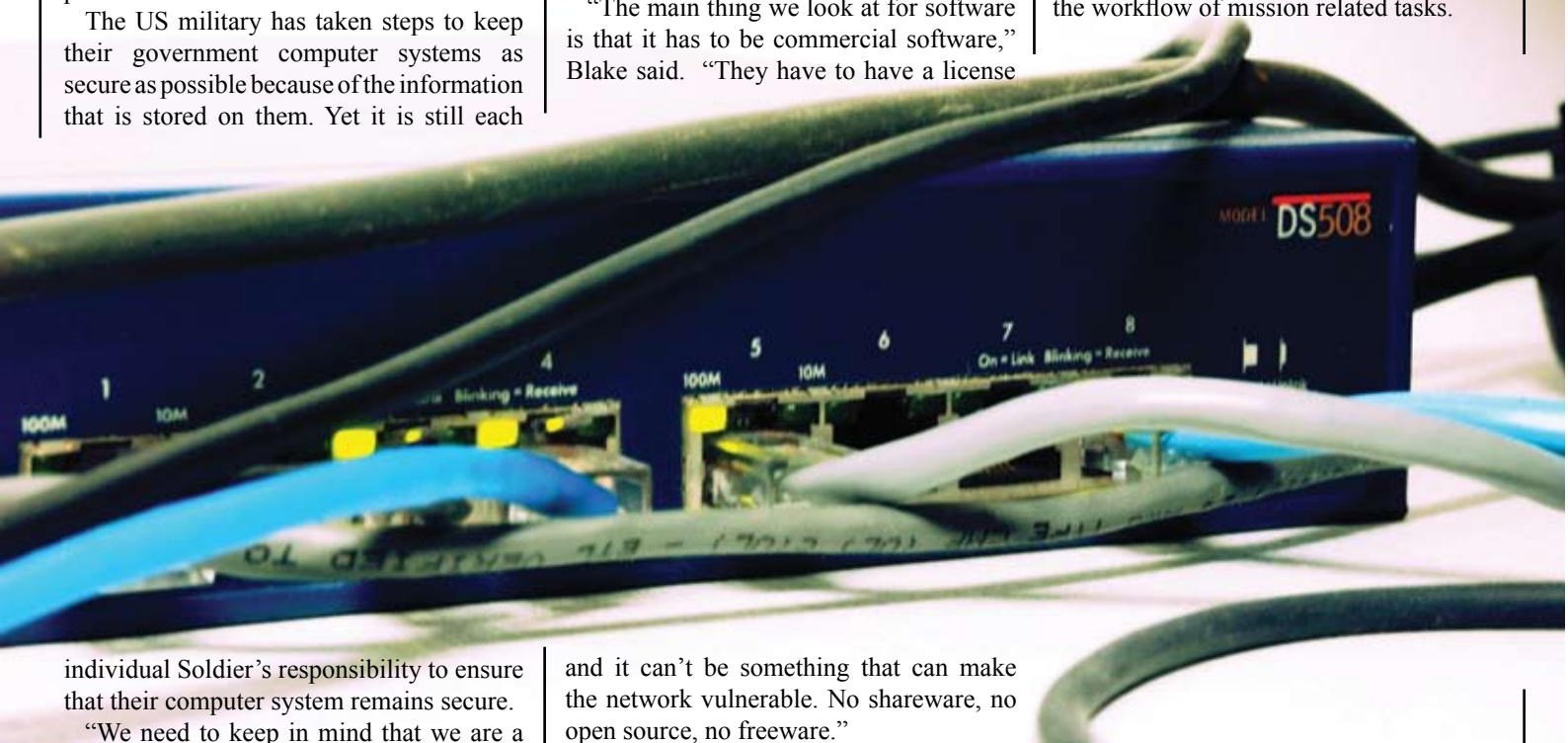
"The main thing we look at for software is that it has to be commercial software," Blake said. "They have to have a license

Because computers can be used for both professional work, and personal interest, there is often confusion about what is and is not authorized activity on a government machine. Although Soldiers using their computers for personal things outside of their work related tasks may not cause a threat to network security, it can affect their mission.

"These machines are for government use only," Driver said. "Does everyone use them for their personal stuff, or to check their e-mail, or to shop? Yes they do."

"Here (in a deployed environment) they are a little more lenient on it," said Blake. "They allow you to go and check your personal e-mail so that you can stay in correspondence with your family back home. But if you were back in Germany or in the states chances are your hotmail won't be able to be used."

The large difference lies between what is affecting the network, and what is affecting the workflow of mission related tasks.



individual Soldier's responsibility to ensure that their computer system remains secure.

"We need to keep in mind that we are a nation at war," Staff Sgt. Rod Kelsey, Help Desk non-commissioned officer in charge, G6, Task Force Falcon, said.

"Right now we have a lot of adversaries out there who are looking for any means possible to gain an advantage over us, technically or tactically," Kelsey said. "By misusing the Internet we are inherently opening ourselves up to these intrusions on the network. By downloading software you can accidentally open a hole up in the network where somebody who is not authorized to gain access to data, can come in and gain information about our operations," he said.

The most typical problem with computer security is related to unauthorized downloading. Although it may

and it can't be something that can make the network vulnerable. No shareware, no open source, no freeware."

Although there are security risks by downloading software, it is still a necessary tool that specific Soldiers may need to utilize.

"To have a secure network, you should have everything down (blocked) except for AKO and education sites and then people can't go out and shop, and all that, you'd have to have something authorized to go there but that's not the way it happens," Kyle Driver, Information Assurance Manager, NSC, said.

"There's still people who legitimately need to download stuff using a Website. It could be G6 downloading printer drivers, or say someone needs to download a PowerPoint presentation, or a manual," Driver said.

We're trying to keep the network secure, Driver said. JPEGs (Joint Photographic Experts Group {the most common file extension for saving pictures}) on a computer is not making the computer vulnerable, it's not damaging our network so we don't worry about it so much but it's up to the supervisors to watch their people and see how that misuse may be affecting their mission, he said.

"The analogy we always use," Driver said, "is that if your supervisor is standing looking over your shoulder while you're working on your computer and you're doing something you think they might not like you to do, then you're probably right. And you don't want to be doing that."

Stay a while

TF Falcon Retention reflects on a good year

Story, photo, and
Layout & Design by:
Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

During the past five years business has been booming for Army Retention. Each year since 2001, the U.S. Army has either met or exceeded their yearly retention goals. According to the Army News Service the Army re-enlisted 109,056 Soldiers in the active and reserve components within the first 10 months of the 2006 fiscal year.

"It's a huge deal that the Army has been able to meet our recruiting and retention goals for the year in a time of war," Staff Sgt. Matt Arrington, noncommissioned officer in charge, retention, TF Falcon, said. "I'm glad that we were able to contribute to that. Two hundred and two of the Soldiers that we re-enlisted are in the Texas National Guard, which really helps our home state's troop strength."

As the subject matter experts for all matters pertaining to retention, the retention office is responsible for a variety of tasks. Their duties include retirement benefits, assisting with bonus issues, counseling Soldiers, education, student loan repayment, retention interviews, training, and ceremonies.

"We are an honest broker for the Soldier," Staff Sgt. Edward Cammon, retention NCO, TF Falcon, said. "We talk to a lot of Soldiers and they feel comfortable coming in to see what their options are. They know we're going to give them straight answers."

Other duties include ensuring that their standard operating procedures are in compliance with the Texas National Guard, Army National Guard, and Army regulations.

"We do all the paperwork for all of the re-enlistments that come through our office," Cammon said. "We're the last line of defense before Soldiers ETS (expiration of time of service)."

"We work for the Army but we still feel obligated to make sure Soldiers are aware of all of their available options and that they choose the best option they can," Cammon said.

Although full time AGR (Active Guard Reserve) retention NCOs, dealing with National Guard, Army Reserve, and Active Duty Soldiers without being trained on procedures for handling different branches of service provided quite a learning curve for Arrington and Cammon.

"For us being National Guard NCOs we've been able to learn everyone else's system in order to process their paperwork," Arrington said. "It's been a challenge because we weren't trained in this area. It was an additional duty that we've been able to learn from."

"The biggest thing we've learned how to work with multiple sergeants major and commanders from different branches of service which is a good thing for us," he said.

Of the 280 people held under stop loss for this deployment, 226 of them have re-enlisted, Arrington said.

"That's just over 80 percent which is great news for the Army," Arrington said.

Throughout the KFOR7 rotation in addition to processing 347 sets of re-enlistment papers Arrington and Cammon claim to have issued over four million dollars worth of bonuses and



Staff Sgt. Edward Cammon, retention NCO, TF Falcon and Staff Sgt. Matt Arrington, noncommissioned officer in charge, retention, TF Falcon pose in front of the TF Falcon retention office on Nov. 8.

incentives not including student loan repayment.

"Bonuses are our specialty," Arrington said. "We don't have the authority to change units or award a new MOS (military occupational specialty) but a Soldier can potentially walk out of our office with over thirty-three thousand dollars worth of bonuses and incentives for a six year commitment. Since we're deployed it is all tax free."

"It makes us feel good to give money to Soldiers," Arrington said. "It's gratifying to know that we can help young Soldiers. It's nice to see or hear about that new house or car that the bonus money bought them."

Retaining quality Soldiers has always and will continue to be a top priority, Cammon said. Ultimately it isn't the retention office's job to get Soldiers to re-enlist.

"We aren't recruiters," Cammon said.

"We're a brigade level entity. It's really the commanders, first sergeants, and first line supervisors that get the Soldier to re-enlist," Arrington said. "Not guys like us that give them money. If skilled Soldiers are lost it greatly affects the war fighting readiness of our Army."

"When Soldiers like what they're doing they re-enlist," Arrington said. "That's the biggest factor. It isn't the money. When Soldiers don't like what they are doing no amount of money will change that."

Family members play a big role in many Soldiers choosing to re-enlist as well, Cammon said.

"We hear it all the time," Arrington said. "I have to check with my wife, first. Then they come in our office excited because their wife said yeah. It's commendable to the family members for assisting these Soldiers in their career decision."

"Knowing that you've assisted other Soldiers in their careers, education, and finances is like being an older brother. You're able to show your younger siblings the way and guide them. It's very rewarding to see them go off and do good things," Cammon said.

MEET THE U

IT'S NOT A PRETTY JOB BUT

Death is something that no one wants to think about, no matter how inevitable it is. During the KFOR 7 rotation, members of Multi-National Task Force (East) have been very fortunate to have not lost any of their fellow Soldiers. However, if a tragic event were to occur, one man would ensure that the remains of the fallen Soldier are handled with dignity, reverence and respect. He waits for the call within the confines of his fenced compound in a secluded corner of Camp Bondsteel. If his services are ever needed the Soldier can rest in peace knowing they are in good hands. Meet 29 year old Cpl. Israel Freeland, noncommissioned officer in charge, mortuary affairs, Task Force Falcon, Austin, Texas.

In times of peace and war after being notified of a service-member's death it is the job of Mortuary Affairs to recover the remains of the deceased.

"My job is to process human remains so they can be sent to Landstuhl, Germany's mortuary to be identified and repatriated back to the U.S.," Freeland said. "After arriving in the U.S. (Dover Air Force Base, Del.) the remains would go to the airport closest to the funeral home of the next of kin's choice."

If I died my remains would go from Landstuhl to Austin and be picked up by the casualty assistance officer there, Freeland said. The CAO will act as the liaison between the military and the family. The body is never left alone until the process is complete.

Under certain circumstances we can hold the remains of a local national or foreign Soldier, Freeland said.

On a normal day I come in and do administrative duties and make sure the refrigeration units remain at a constant temperature, Freeland said.

"I'm just an E-four but I'm the sole person responsible for mortuary matters for this part of Europe," Freeland said. "It takes a special kind of person to deal with this on a day to day basis."

"Every military casualty goes through us," Freeland said. "There aren't that many of us so a lot of pride goes into our job. It's pretty interesting because no two cases are the same."

"Mortuary affairs, as a whole are a tight-knit

group," Freeland said. "We all know each other. We communicate well. So if I have a question, they are just a phone call away."

"I handle death very well and that's why I chose this as my primary MOS (military occupational specialty)," Freeland said. "It can be quite difficult if you dwell on someone's bereaved. That person was someone's mother, father, brother, sister, son or daughter."

"The thing that made me interested in this line of work was the death of my cousin," Freeland said. "I felt like the people who handled him did a terrible job and I knew that I could've done better."

"Funerals aren't for the deceased. It's for those left behind," Freeland

said. "The funeral is many people's last memory of the person they have lost. It should be as comfortable as can be expected. They should look like themselves."

"On this deployment my grandmother passed away. When I called home one of the main things I wanted to know was who handled her body," Freeland said. "Knowing she was in good hands put me at ease."

"Another reason I'm comfortable with death is because I believe in God and I feel that death isn't the end," Freeland said. "I know that when it's your time it's your time."

Death and dying is like life and living. It's a process that we all go through.

Back home, "I work in a funeral home, where I assist the funeral home director in services and identifying the body before cremations," Freeland said. "I'm currently in school to become

UNDERTAKER

SOMEBODY HAS TO DO IT

a licensed funeral home director. Seeing death the way I have has made it easier for me to help those who have lost someone.”

On the military side Freeland was taught all that encompasses search and discovery missions at Fort Lee, Va; including land navigation, how to set up perimeters and establish search grids, how to conduct decontaminations, and they took trips to the morgue in Richmond, Va, to handle remains.

“We (mortuary affairs) were at the Pentagon during September eleventh and hurricane Katrina,” Freeland said. “We were in Vietnam, Korea, and the Philippines. The phrase no Soldier left behind is true. We still do search and recovery missions to ensure that those missing Soldiers’ remains are found and brought home.”

When remains are found they are sent to the Central Identification Lab in Hawaii so that DNA can be extracted to get a positive ID so the remains can be given to the family, Freeland said. CILHI is neat because if you have a missing family member they can take your DNA and compare it with what they have.

Happy that, here, he has been basically out of a job, Freeland has had the time to do a lot of other things.

I read a lot of field manuals and training manuals and visit the mortuary affairs Website to review new information, Freeland said. We’ve had the chance to train up mortuary affairs teams in each task force since it would be their responsibility to get the bodies to me. I’ve also had the opportunity to work with the KIKPC (Kosovo Force Inspectorate for the Kosovo Protection Corps) and learn their job.

“I’ve attend college classes, went to infantry school, attended the Warrior Leaders Course, participated in the Schutzenschnur, climbed ‘Big Duke’ and completed every DANCON march,” Freeland said.

With business being so slow, Freeland is left with plenty of time to help with additional tasks and details that come up here and there.

“My job puts me in an awkward situation,” Freeland said. “I sit by the phone waiting on either someone to call me with bad news or someone calling me because they’ve found something else for me to do.”

*Story, Photo illustration and Layout
& Design by: Spc. J. TaShun Joycé*



Task Force Dragoon normally uses Humvees for their steady state patrols. TF Dragoon Soldiers normally operate as an Army National Guard field artillery unit in Bentonville, Ark. But, for their deployment to Kosovo, they were retrained as military policemen. They have conducted patrols all over Multi-National Task Force (East)'s sector throughout the year.

In every organization there is often one individual or group of individuals that no one understands or knows very well. They generally keep to themselves while going about their business.

With a group of Soldiers who are work as military police, their unique missions, and their odd location of working out of mid-town, Task Force Dragoon is often the question mark in other Soldiers' minds. Despite this, the Soldiers of TF Dragoon had plenty of answers about what they do in support of the Multi-National Task Force (East) mission.

"Mainly we multi task a lot," Sgt. James Peters, squad leader, 3rd squad, 1st Platoon. TF Dragoon, Lowell, Ark., said. "It sounds funny, but we've done everything from escorts to steady state to cordon and search to TCPs (traffic check points) to air insertion."

Because Task Force Dragoon troops are trained as MPs, there are a number of missions that are given to them because of their skills and qualifications. Monitoring the areas and establishments that are off-limits to Kosovo Force personnel is one of them.

"A lot of times we go out and we find grids for new off limits areas, we check old off limits areas, and ensure that no -- KFOR Soldiers are where they're not supposed be," Peters said. "We get an off limits list about every three months, we go out and check grids and we verify. We also take pictures and get intel for higher up," he said.

Conducting escort missions for

visiting dignitaries is also one of the jobs that TF Dragoon normally handles with ease.

"We're tasked with the majority, probably ninety percent of all the escorts," Peters said. "We've escorted the Portuguese, the Italians, four star generals, we've pulled security on admiral's planes at the APOD, and we've pulled security for General Owens," Peters said.

One of the missions TF Dragoon is expected to do is react quickly to any immediate needs of MNTF(E).

"We're responsible for PRF(perimeter reaction force) for Bondsteel, so if anything was to happen on Bondsteel, or within the outer limits of Bondsteel, PRF gets called," Peters said.

"We also secure the gates when something comes up missing on post," said Spc. Jeff Beard, 3rd. Sqd. 1st Plt., TF Dragoon, Bentonville, Ark.

"We kind of have to react quickly," Sgt. William Swafford, team leader, 3rd Sqd., 1st Plt. TF Dragoon, Tulsa, Okla. said.

"Another task force would have a lot of notice," Swafford said. "Whereas we get called out for a TCP, we load up, go outside the gate, and set up a hasty checkpoint because they know a person of interest is going to be coming down this road."

Yet within the diverse job responsibilities of TF Dragoon, each platoon also has other roles they feel are just as important. One of these is the steady state patrol.

"For first platoon you can call us the

eyes and ears for the battle desk as far as the daily goings on in different towns, everything from 'Hey what's going on in Ferizaj/Urosevac to 'What's the road condition like,'" Swafford said.

"We find out a lot more information," Peters said. "We're able to go throughout MNTF(E) to different areas to see what different areas are like, we have a little bit more leeway than some other task forces," he said.

During these patrols, TF Dragoon Soldiers take the time to conduct information operation interviews with local Kosovars.

"With the IO interviews I've done, a lot of times you have to sit there and pump the people for information," Peters said. "It's winter time and when the next rotation gets here I think they're going to fall in on the same questions that we've gotten. 'Hey we've had power for one hour out of twenty three, my road is flooded and all muddy and I can't get to town, and the doctor shows up once every three weeks, and I don't have a job,'" Peters said.

"And then you ask 'What do you think about Islamic extremists?' And they say 'Hey, didn't I tell you my power was out?' These people here are not so much into religion as much as they are about basic necessities," Peters said.

Although the Soldiers are not always able to directly affect some of the problems of the local Kosovars, they do feel that their presence is having a positive effect.

"The best effect that we're having is just us walking around, driving in Humvees in towns, people see that," Swafford said. "It has a good effect on the people who live there because they feel safer seeing us, and it has a good effect on people who come from other places who want to cause trouble. They see us there and they don't try anything illegal."

"I think it still provides them comfort that there is still U.S. presence in the area, and that we're here for a while and that we're here to make their (lives) better," Peters said.

Now at the end of the KFOR7 rotation, TF Dragoon Soldiers are preparing to go home to Arkansas, each one of them taking back with them a year of memories and experiences they've had in Kosovo.

"I was thinking about this a while ago," Peters said, "I've been in the National Guard for eight years and this is my first deployment (overseas). It's had its ups and downs but it's been a good experience."

TF DRAGOON



Sgt. James Peters, squad leader, 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, TF Dragoon, and the rest of his squad Sgt. William Swafford, team leader, Spc. Jeff Beard, Spc. Brad Heard, Bentonville, Ark., and Spc. Todd Boyd, Bentonville, Ark., walk the streets of Ferizaj/Urosevac, Nov. 2, during a steady state patrol.



Above and right, Sgt. Peters, squad leader, 3rd. Sqd. 1st Plt., TF Dragoon and his squad take time to talk to some locals in Viti/Vitina during a steady state patrol Nov. 2.

During their patrols TF Dragoon Soldiers take the opportunity to conduct information operation interviews with locals to monitor the climate and concerns of different areas.

Photos, Story by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols
Layout & Design by Sgt. Matthew Chlosta



Guardian

November 2006

23

Veterans Day Photos

Layout & Design by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols

Photo by Spc. J. TaShun Joycé



ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, commanding general, Multi-National Task Force (East) presents The Legion Of Merit award to Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, commander, COM KFOR during the Veteran's Day awards ceremony at Camp Bondsteel parade field, Nov. 11.

LEFT: Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, commanding general, Multi-National Task Force (East) presents Spc. Deodato Louissaint, finance clerk, TF Falcon, with a Certificate of Achievement for earning his United States citizenship while deployed in support of KFOR7.

Photo by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols



Photo by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols

ABOVE: Members of the MNTF(E) Special Staff salute the colors at the end of the awards ceremony.

BELOW: Soldiers of KFOR7 formed up on the Camp Bondsteel Parade Field for an awards ceremony where they were presented with the Kosovo Campaign Medal and the NATO Non Article Five Medal.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

ABOVE: Spc. William Llewellyn, TF Dragoon receives his awards from Cpt. Kevin Cox, commanding officer, TF Dragoon, during the awards ceremony.

RIGHT: The color guard retires the colors at the end of the awards ceremony.



Photo by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols



Spc. Joseph Singletary, LMT 6, TF Houston, and 1st Lt. Piotr Cichon, LMT 6, POL/UKR battalion, work on their daily report to submit to the regional LMT Nov. 2.

continued from pg 15

facing Kosovo and Glllobocice/Globocica. One man's view on the need for accountability among Kosovo's leadership seemed to mirror the other although their opinions differed slightly on other issues.

Their honest opinions were exactly what Cichon and Johnson were looking for.

"We get a lot of variety in what we do," Johnson said. "Besides our regular missions by just going out talking to people they've told us more serious things like where to find UXOs (unexploded ordnance)."

"Though we aren't involved with intelligence we find out a lot of things being out there with the people," Cantu said. "A lot of the information we provide is just as important and valuable as what the tactical teams provide."

Cantu and Johnson credit most of their expertise to their time spent in the police force back in the U.S. They added that being police officers help them to notice the more subtle happenings within a community. Cantu, a police officer for 17 years, believes his success has a lot to do with him having an ear for hearing peoples' problems.

"We are perfectly fit for this job because we

deal with people on a regular basis," Johnson, said referring to his 10 years of police service. "We understand body language and communicate well with others. The difference is here our job doesn't involve the paperwork of throwing crooks in jail. Our experience in writing detailed reports help a lot. When you're a cop it's all about the report.

We use our report writing skills that we've

learned in the police force to take what we observe and put it into words so that KFOR understands what's going on," Johnson said.

Nearing the end of their rotation, soon Cantu and Johnson will go back to their old jobs in the police force, where work really looks

"Americans train a specific way and have a particular way of conducting missions," Johnson said. "Having this opportunity we've incorporated what we do with what they do. It has been a real interesting process finding our common ground. We've been lucky that our counterparts have been so willing to work as a team."

and feels like work.

"I've grown very comfortable working these areas" Cantu said. "We were the first (LMT) rotation to stay an entire year. That additional time afforded us the opportunity to build some strong relationships.

"I feel that I will never have another job in my military career that will have such an impact on high level decisions on someone at my level," Cantu said. "The impact is greater than if I was in a regular tactical unit. The impact I can have on people's lives is also part of the reason that I became a cop."

Staff Army tradition continues in Ride the Balkans

Story by: Spc. Gene DuBielak
Layout & Design by, Spc. TaShun Joycé

The monument marking the Kosovo Polje battlefield could be seen by passengers as the buses negotiated the dirt road leading to what appeared to be just another cornfield. The passengers, all senior enlisted Soldiers or officers from Multi National Task Force (East), were here to learn and grow professionally.

The MNTF (E) Staff Ride hosted by Task Force Houston held on Oct. 12, was designed, "to bring the Soldiers and leadership of the brigade together and learn the history of Kosovo," Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Broyles, command sergeant major, TF Houston, said.

The staff ride focused on the battle of Kosovo Polje. Located just outside of Prishtine/Pristina the battle occurred on June 15, 1389. The history of the battle is somewhat clouded as most accounts are colored by partisanship and largely relayed through poems as well as being passed orally from generation to generation.

Staff rides are traditionally conducted to foster professional development and to educate leadership on the lessons learned from past wars. Normally held at Civil War battle sites in the United States the participants gather to learn about tactics used by commanders at the respective battlefields.

"We study history so that we can learn of the success and failures of the past. We study history so that we know how to fight the next war" Broyles said.

Once the staff ride participants were given an opportunity to look over the field of combat and enjoy the view from atop the monument the TF Houston staff gathered in the tent. The narrative of the battle was approached in an interesting and entertaining manner.

Rather than just delivering a lecture on the events of the battle TF Houston

commander Lt. Col. Charles Aris and Operations Officer Maj. Sydney Parlour role played Kings Lazar and Murad of the Serbian and Turkish empires respectively.

The two officers engaged each other in debate while in character of the Turkish and Serbian leaders. The exchange exaggerated and exemplified the effects of partisanship on recollections or differing versions of the history of the battle.

Interjecting in the exchange between Aris and Parlour was TF Houston Intelligence officer Cpt. Matthew Sellman. Sellman represented an impartial and more historically accurate perspective in attempt to balance the extremist rhetoric being tossed about by kings "Lazar" and "Murad" (Aris, Parlour). Once the performance ended, the senior Soldiers and leaders were guided to the tomb of Marud where the battlefield

"We study history so that we can learn of the success and failures of the past. We study history so that we know how to fight the next war," Broyles said.

tour concluded.

The staff ride well served its traditional purpose of educating Soldiers in tactics and past military campaigns. An additional benefit to this staff ride was that the participants received some insight into the events that created the environment they are currently serving in. While the battle of Kosovo Polje may not have made a significant impact on either empire militarily it had a deep and lasting cultural and religious impact especially within the Serbian culture.

1st Lt. Garrett Lewis, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Houston, said "after being in Kosovo for nine months and working with both Serbians and Albanians I have been able to see how they hold on to the past as if it is the present. One item they always refer to is the battle of Kosovo Polje. After the staff ride and being on the ground I was able to relate to the stories they have been telling me all along."

No one's saying that

Task Force MedFalcon 'head doctors' set the record straight about Combat Stress Control

Story Layout & Design by:
Spc. J. TaShun Joycé

Deployments often prove to be a trying time for many service members. Being away from friends and family along with a number of other issues that come from adapting to a new routine can place a heavy burden on anyone. Task Force MedFalcon's Combat Stress Control office specializes in assisting Soldiers in dealing with whatever issues they need help with. No matter the problem, Combat Stress is here.

"In the states my company charges for these services - the Soldier gets it here free," Capt. Donovan Horton, officer in charge, combat stress control, TF MedFalcon, Jackson, Miss, said.

"We need Combat Stress Control to help Soldiers get back in the fight quickly," he said. "We provide counseling utilizing the pool of knowledge from psychology and sociology to treat the Soldier."

"Our name is combat stress but you don't need to be in it to seek help," Horton said.

"Soldiers still think that if they come to combat stress they will be penalized and that's not the case," he said. "Our records here are not integrated into the hospital records. It will not get out their chain of command unless the Soldier is a danger to themselves or others."

During this deployment CSC has sponsored regular tobacco cessation, anger management, and stress management programs, Sgt. Shawn Kuller, behavioral science noncommissioned officer, Combat Stress Control, TF MedFalcon, Tampa, Fla., said.

"I really like the smoking cessation program," Horton said. "It gets people's foot in the door. Seeing guys they know

helps them come in on serious issues."

CSC has also conducted substance abuse presentations, gone out on patrols with the infantry, and made regular visits to the Pristina/Prishtine University Hospital and Urosevac/Ferizaj mental health clinic, Sgt. Stephen Box, behavioral science specialist, Combat Stress Control, TF MedFalcon, Tuscaloosa, Ala., said.

The mental health system here is relatively twenty or thirty years behind the United States, Box said.

Kosovo didn't have a strong mental health system in place because of the poor economy and lack of government oversight in place, Kuller said.

"Doctors don't get paid very well here so they won't be around most of the time," he said. "There are very few psychiatric drugs here and treatment facilities available."

"Here the only person who knows what kind of medications the patients are getting is the doctor. The patient and the nurses don't know," Box said.

There is a lack of patient education and medical education, Kuller said. Psychology and psychiatry is not a field that many pursue. A lot of people don't believe in it so it isn't given a lot of priority.

"There was a war here," Kuller. "Many witnessed war crimes and other atrocities and a lot of people suffering from these things are not being treated. It led to things like the suicide rate increasing and it forced the people of Kosovo to take a look at what was going on."

Now that they recognize the problem they are struggling to catch up and get where they need to be."

"Many Soldiers are expecting certain things when they get home and no one has told them that things are going to be different," Sgt. Shawn Kuller, behavioral science noncommissioned officer, TF Med Falcon.

YOU'RE CRAZY



With Kosovo being relatively new to the mental help field CSC has spent a lot of time teaching mental health providers how to properly diagnose and treat their patients.

"There is a long process to diagnosing someone," Kuller said. "It's something that you come to over time. You can come up with an initial diagnosis and by the time you're done treating that person it can be something completely different."

With the Kosovo Force 7 rotation winding to a close the CSC has shifted its focus to re-deployment and re-integration training by joining forces with the Chaplain's office to raise awareness about re-deployment issues.

"We go hand in hand with the Chaplain's office," Horton said.

"A lot of things change while a Soldier is deployed," Kuller said. "The Soldier comes back expecting things to go right back to the way things were. Unfortunately that does not happen. Many Soldiers are expecting certain things when they get home and no one has told them that things are going to be different."

It takes time to get back into a normal routine, Horton said. For married Soldiers returning home can be very difficult time.

"The spouse has had to take up the bulk of the household responsibilities, if there are kids involved then there is always that issue," Kuller said. "The Soldier expected one thing and the spouse is saying this is the way things have been since you've been gone."

"It is important to support your spouse," Horton said. "One of the big things Soldiers do is ask why this or that has been done. Without noticing the good things they question and complain. Looking for the positive helps to have a better relationship."

I was reading an online blog a few nights ago written by msnbc.com news reporters from Iraq. One female journalist had composed a moving piece about knowing a Soldier in Iraq and then going to cover his funeral in the United States.

She talked a little bit about how Americans back home are so removed from the war and they don't appreciate the sacrifices, especially the ultimate sacrifice that their troops are making overseas fighting two wars simultaneously. Her comments reminded me of how the current wars don't feel personal to many Americans. Since they are being fought thousands of miles away from the shores of American soil, the stories of Soldiers dying lose resonance and a deeply personal connection with an American public that contains many people who have never served their country and don't know anyone, friends or family who serve.

I've heard a lot of people in America say, "We support the American Soldiers but not the war." In the past, I've experienced a few people in stores shaking my hand when I'd go shopping in uniform after work at Fort Huachuca in 2003, but nothing where I felt that people really cared and backed it up with action not just empty words.

After reading her piece I started to tear up as I thought about my friend currently serving in Iraq, his pregnant wife left behind in the states; my friend from college, who had to run for his life from his office in World Trade Center 7 in New York City on 9/11 and then a memory was triggered that I'd forgotten about from early last year.

My wife and I went on vacation to California in May 2005 to visit some of her relatives and to see one of my Marine journalist friends, who had recently returned from Iraq. One night we stayed in Los Angeles and my wife and I decided to go out and check out the famous L.A. rock 'n' roll nightclub, the Viper Room.

club facing the main street, Sunset Boulevard. What I didn't know at the time is that in L.A., the movie capital of the world, the cool thing to do, to promote exclusivity, is to have the main entrance be the side door, so it makes the people entering feel more like a person in the know and that they are entering an exclusive space. People were coming out the front door but no one was waiting on line or going inside. So, we asked some of the patrons coming out of the front door and we were told that the main entrance was around the side. Then, Sheila and I walked around to the side entrance, where there were about a dozen,

stylishly dressed club goers waiting in line to show the bouncer their ID cards. We waited about 10 minutes and then slowly the line finally reached the door man.

I would describe him as about late 20's, early 30's a Generation X type. He looked very hip and cool with hair spiked up in Hollywood actor stylist fashion. Think Nick Lachey from Newlyweds for the hair and the John Cusack's record store owner character from the movie "High Fidelity." He seemed like someone who loved live music and probably had played in a few bands over the years. He looked down at us in a kind of nonchalant way that said, "I'm cool, I live in L.A. and I'm in the know," and the rest of us, especially me and my wife weren't.

Anyways, he looked at my military ID card, checked my age and handed it back. Then he glanced at my wife's ID card. Sheila is from Costa Rica so usually she shows her resident Alien card for ID purposes but for some reason she pulled out her military ID card instead and gave it to the guy. I think he just assumed that she was also in the military

entrance down a long dark hallway with velvet walls. As we approached the cashier, where another line of people were paying the \$10 cover charge and getting hand stamps before going up the steps into the club upstairs. I immediately got a little bit panicked and anxious in my mind but figured, this is L.A., I've been here before and people on the West Coast are a little bit different.

They are usually not pro military, and they tend to be a little more liberal in their world views in general.

Also, when we went to the Viper room the violence in Iraq was ebbing and flowing daily on the TV news channels and usually not in a good way. The national news outlets and cable TV stations

were also packed with stories of the convictions of several Soldiers involved in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.

I'd just covered several of these courts martial for the Fort Hood Sentinel back in Texas only weeks before my trip. That was one reason I needed a vacation. I really had a feeling he was going to take us inside and tell us he hated me, my wife, the military, the Army and that we wouldn't be allowed inside the bar.

I had grown a healthy thick skin but this seemed a little bit too much. But, just as I was about to ask him why he wanted to escort us inside, he walked up to the cashier and made a right turn towards some steps leading up to the main bar. As he passed the cashier, he said to her in booming voice, loud enough so everyone within 50 feet could hear him, "Let them through on me. They're military members." When I heard what he said, it took a second to register, but then I felt goose bumps running up my arms. Sheila and I looked at each other with happy surprised shock.

We got hand stamps from the cashier and as we passed by him on the way upstairs to the chaos in the bar above, he shook both of our hands, looked us both in the eyes and said genuinely, "Thank you both for serving for us. Thank you for protecting us. We appreciate it." And then he turned around, took a left turn, disappeared around the corner, and headed back outside to his post.

When I heard what he said, it took a second to register, but then I felt goose bumps running up my arms. Sheila and I looked at each other with happy surprised shock.

He pointed at me and my wife and said, "You two come with me."

The club is infamous for being partly owned in the past by the actor Johnny Depp and as the place where River Phoenix overdosed and died in 1993. They usually have live bands every night, a dance floor and a rumored VIP room, where famous celebrities hang out.

We arrived around 7 p.m., parked our car and walked toward what we thought was the front door of the

since he probably just looked at what type of ID card it was and not close at the tiny block of small letters that said, "spouse." He glanced at the front and back of her ID, then handed it back and said hold on to the next person in line behind us. He pointed at me and my wife and said, "You two come with me."

We followed him through the side

-Sgt. Matthew Chlosta-managing editor-

Bradley's Final CALFEX

Photo and Story by Spc. Eugene DuBielak, TF Houston

Layout & Design by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols

On Oct. 11 the Soldiers of Company Delta, Task Force Houston made a place for themselves in the history of the storied 36th Infantry Division.

When the state of Texas cased the colors of the 49th Armored Division and unfurled those of the 36th Inf. Div. in May 2004 the days of mechanized infantry were numbered within the division. On Oct. 11, Co. D, TF Houston fired their Bradley Fighting Vehicles for what may well have been the last time in the history of the Texas Army National Guard.

A CALFEX allows all elements involved to simulate a combat mission scenario utilizing the combined firepower of the BFVs, dismounted infantry, and the attack helicopters. The purpose of the exercise is to allow both the infantry and aviation units to work together to achieve maximum firepower and cohesiveness.

Having returned to Europe where the "Fighting 36th" built its reputation in two world wars the Delta company Soldiers would help add another chapter to the division's history.

While the determination has not been made by the Department of the Army as to whether or not Texas will retain any armor/mechanized assets this was likely the last time that company D TF Houston will fire them as they are slated for transformation in the 2007 timeframe.

While any opportunity to train is a benefit this exercise was somewhat bittersweet to the Delta Company soldiers. With the process of transition under way the infantrymen knew this might be the last time they would utilize the Bradley.

Infantry Soldiers have a love hate relationship with Bradleys. "It's like being married" said Staff Sgt. Joe Shipp, Bradley gunner, TF Houston. The love the infantrymen have with the firepower and the mobility of the vehicle is offset by the intensive maintenance it requires. "I won't miss the maintenance" Shipp said.

"I think it's going to be better. You will spend less time on maintenance and gunnery and more time on the warrior tasks" Shipp said.

Another question brought about by transformation is the question of recruiting and retention. Would Soldiers of a former armored division reenlist as infantrymen to serve as light infantry?

"Our job doesn't change" Shipp said. "Infantry is infantry; our job is to close with the enemy by means of fire and maneuver, mounted or dismounted."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Baley, TF Houston, said the concept would take some getting used to. "I guess I will have to learn to carry everything I need with me instead of in a car (BFV)." He also echoed Shipp's sentiments in regards to maintenance.

While it appears that Co. D, TF Houston has served as a mechanized infantry for the last time the future of the Bradley in the Texas National Guard is unclear.

Col. Mark Campsey, chief of staff, Multi-National Task Force (East), stressed that while the state of Texas may not have the armored/ mechanized assets that it once had under the flag of the 49th Armored Division the individuals who manned those vehicles were the true assets.

"What is more important than the vehicles themselves are the Soldiers and leaders that have trained to maneuver the complex organizations that had those vehicles in the past," Campsey said. "I think that the experience that Soldiers/leaders have obtained in training to execute the very complex CALFEXs will be invaluable to Texas Army National Guard and the Army in the future," Campsey said.



From Left To Right: Company Charlie, TF Houston Soldiers Sgt. Charles Boxley, Houston Texas, Spc. Noe Aguilar, Diaboll Texas, and Spc. Rexford Harell, Lovelady Texas pour out of the back of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Oct. 11, during the CALFEX exercise.

Say Hello, Say Goodbye

Story, Photo, Layout & Design by Spc. Daniel J. Nichols

For KFOR7 Soldiers, their journey is coming to an end. For KFOR8 Soldiers, it is just beginning. Here in the month of November what all of our Soldiers have been looking forward to, is finally becoming a reality: KFOR7 Soldiers are leaving and KFOR8 Soldiers are arriving.

Yet in the midst of all this change, there are important things going on behind the scenes ensuring that KFOR7 Soldiers will be able to say goodbye to Kosovo. From paperwork involving records and awards, to manifests being constructed to get Soldiers on planes back home, the G1 and Personnel Service Detachment are putting forth monumental efforts towards getting everyone from KFOR7 home, and in processing KFOR8 Soldiers to their new home at Camp Bondsteel.

"We're building the manifests and preparing our people for moving out," Spc. Peter Rucker, strength manager, G-1, Task Force Falcon said, "so I need to give the units all of the data fields that we need to fill the manifest and then get their input on who they want to send out first and who they want to keep until the very end," he said. "Then once we get aircraft with X number of seats on them we go and pull based on the priorities that the units told us, and fill personnel on those aircraft based on the number of seats," Rucker said.

While manifests are being made, and Soldiers are being accounted for, the PSC is ensuring that Soldiers return home with the paperwork they need for a smooth out processing.

"Basically on the paper work side we ensure that everything is in their record and that they have a hard copy of it prior to them leaving," Sgt. 1st Class Quentin Kimble, non-commissioned officer in charge, PSC, TF Falcon said.

"We make sure that all of the Soldiers have their service awards, orders, mobilization orders, TCS orders, NCOERS, all of their evaluations reports, 1059s for schools, their CAC Cards are updated, and that they have ID tags," Kimble said. "This way, once they sit down at Fort Hood to get their DD Form two-fifteens done that they have all the required documents to make sure that they get a complete DD Form two-fifteen," he said.

Having all of these documents is very important for not only a Soldier's out-processing but also for the integrity of their

military records.

"A lot of people have done a lot of hard work to ensure that a Soldier is squared away once they hit the de-mob site," Kimble said.

Despite this, it is very important that every individual Soldier double checks their records for accuracy. "Ultimately the individual Soldier is responsible for the success of their record," 1st Lt. Steven Coon, officer in charge, PSC, said. "We've enabled them with copies of their documents and given them everything they need, but it's up to them to go ahead and make sure, and double check that they have everything."

In the meantime, KFOR8 is arriving, and their distinctive 29th Infantry Division 'Yin Yang' unit patch is hard to miss. While the Soldiers of G1 and PSC are handling the measures to out process KFOR7, they are also taking care of the KFOR8 Soldiers that are arriving.

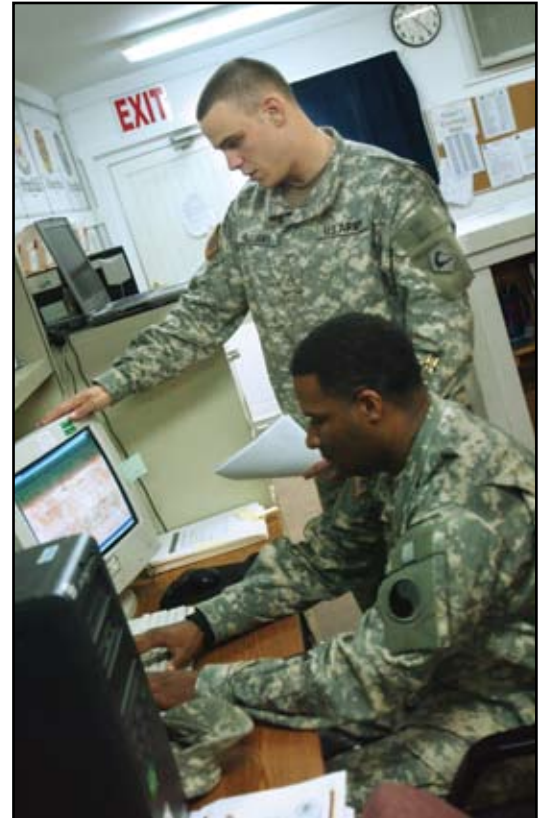
"The manifests consists of the individuals that are inbound, the flights that they're on, their duty positions, their ranks, and the task forces they belong to," Master Sgt. Christy Clements, NCOIC, G-1, TF Falcon, said. "All of the critical information that I need to pass down to subordinate units in order to get them billeted for their keys, identify who their roommates are going to be, and also to link them up with their sponsors -- so they can begin their RIP process," Clements said.

"Our part," Kimble said "is to make sure that we get a roster of every Soldier that comes in to get their entitlements started with things like the tax free (entitlements), hazardous duty pay, and ensuring that their CAC cards have the proper certificates," he said.

With Soldiers arriving and Soldiers leaving, it could very easily seem like chaos, but the G1 ensures that every Soldier is accounted for whether they are at Camp Bondsteel, Germany, or flying back to the states.

"That's our main objective," Clements said. "Inside the G1 world, one hundred percent accountability of personnel is our number one focus."

"The strength manager, has a big job because he will have to maintain accountability for two task forces, the flow in and the flow out, and the dual process of having us both on ground together," Clements said.



Sgt. Michael Williams, 685th Finance Detachment, TF Falcon, helps train his KFOR8 counterpart Spc. George Hendricks, 1130th Finance Det., TF Falcon, during their relief in place process, Nov. 13.

In spite of the added difficulty to his responsibilities, Rucker will be able to change over his responsibilities to his replacement like all of the other KFOR7 Soldiers.

"It's the same sort of relief in place process that everybody goes through," said Rucker. "Up until a certain point I'm responsible for all of our job responsibilities for both KFOR7 and KFOR8. During that time I'm training my counterpart to fill my role so that on a certain date he assumes control and he is responsible for all the actions and I am just here to observe and monitor," Rucker said.

Throughout all of the necessary steps required, and the new duties that have appeared due to KFOR7 going home, everyone is eager to say goodbye to Kosovo.

"I'm excited," Clements said. "I was one of the first ones in and I'll be one of the last ones out, I've been away from home for a long long time."

"The sooner we put everybody on planes and get out of here the sooner we're all back with our families," Rucker said.



Guardian

Volume 13, Issue 10 Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Task Force (East) www.tffalcon.hqusaareur.army.mil November 2006